



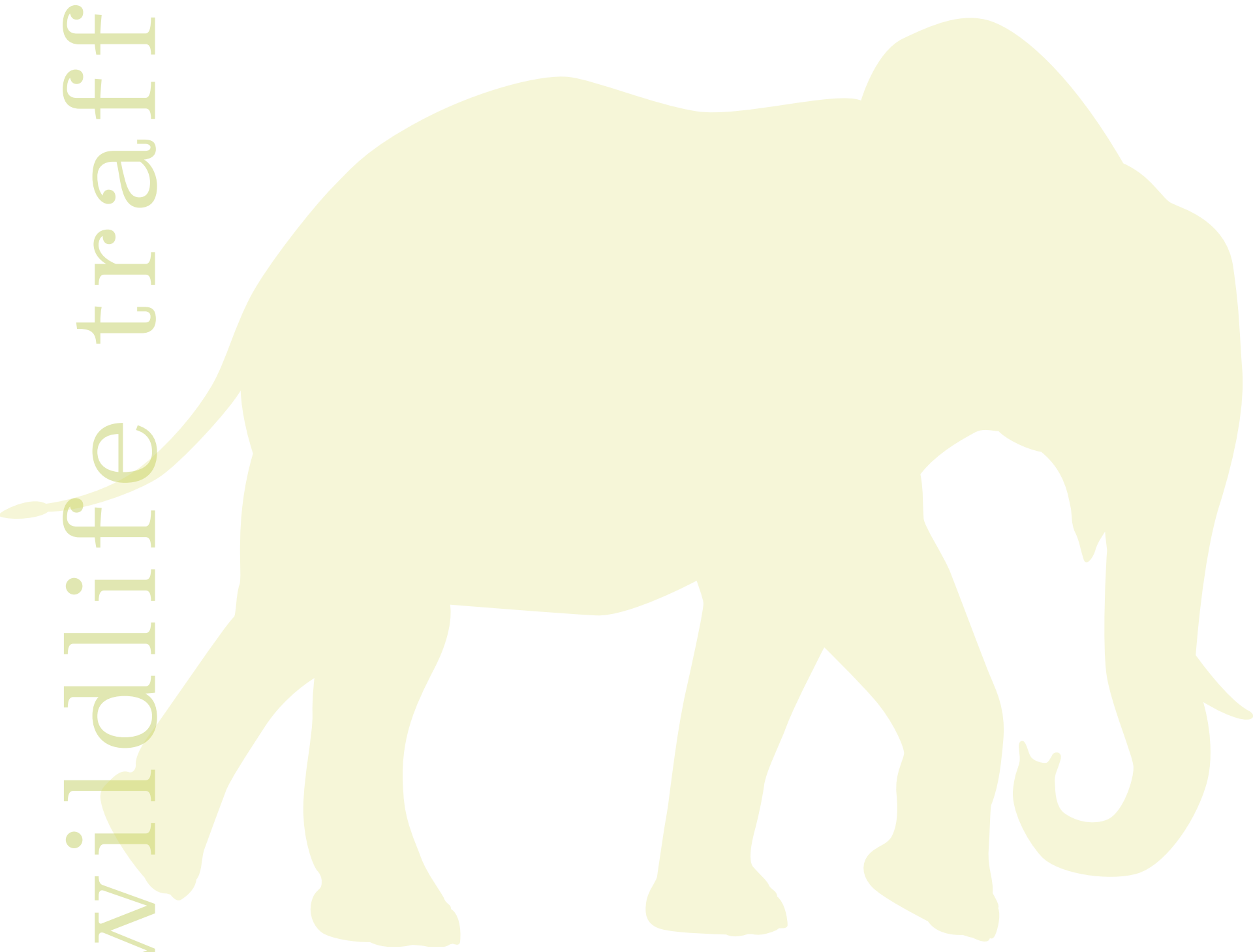
Preserve the earth

Illustration: Phil Witte

preserve the earth

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Animals and plants are threatened by many forces, from loss of their habitats to harmful agricultural practices. Some species already have disappeared; others are endangered. Wildlife trafficking poses a very serious threat to the survival of dozens of species.



You can help protect threatened species by:

» Adopting an animal from a wildlife conservation group



- » Volunteering to help in conservation
- » Spreading the word about the threat from illegal wildlife trade
- » Refusing to buy products made from endangered animals

Many species are in dramatic decline due to poaching and illegal trade in live animals and their body parts. For example, elephants are poached for ivory—one is killed every 15 minutes—tigers for their skins and bones, rhinos for their horns and sharks for their fins.

Poaching has pushed even protected species like the Sumatran tiger, Javan rhino, leatherback turtle and mountain gorilla to the brink of extinction.

With the loss of one species, entire ecosystems can falter, with dire consequences for other species, the environment and humans.

Animals on almost every continent are threatened by poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The United States is working with many countries worldwide to end poaching and reduce demand for illegally traded wildlife. The U.S. is also working with China and several African countries to protect elephants and other threatened species.



All of these creatures are seriously threatened by illegal wildlife trafficking:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 African Elephant | 8 Canada Lynx |
| 2 Cheetah | 9 White Rhino |
| 3 Tibetan Antelope (Chiru) | 10 Cockatoo |
| 4 Helmeted Hornbill | 11 Macaw |
| 5 Slow Loris | 12 Rosewood Tree |
| 6 Bengal Tiger | 13 Grizzly Bear |
| 7 Gray Wolf | 14 Saiga Antelope |
| | 15 Snow Leopard |
| | 16 Pangolin |
| | 17 Wild Orchids |
| | 18 River Otter |
| | 19 Sturgeon |
| | 20 Green Sea Turtle |
| | 21 Coral |
| | 22 White Shark |
| | 23 Queen Conch |
| | 24 Bluefin Tuna |
| | 25 Nile Crocodile |